UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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EXAMINER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Attachment to Advisory Action Paper No. 20090708

1.   For purposes of appeal, the proposed remarks will be entered and the proposed

rejection(s) detailed below will be included in the Examiner's Answer. To be complete,

such rejection(s) must be addressed in any brief on appeal.

Upon entry of the amendment(s) for purposes of appeal:

Claim(s) 1-32, 34-65, 67 and 68 would be rejected for the reasons set forth in the

rejections under U.S.C. § 102(b) based upon Crabtree et al. of the final Office action

mailed March 27, 2009.

Corrected Filing Receipt

2.   The request for Corrected Filing Receipt was received on October 11, 2005. The

correction is currently pending.

Response to Arguments

Summary of Remarks (@ response page labeled 3): The Crabtree reference only

generates at least one real-world feature and does not synthesize the real world

features.

Examiner's Response: The Crabtree reference, as Applicant points out,
generates at least one real-world feature. However, each real-world feature, whether it
is the location of the cluster, height, or width is generated by the synthesis of
measurements regarding the object clusters from the image information (characteristic
quantities of respective objects in said image information). Take, for instance, the
generation of the real-world x-coordinate as seen in column 18, line 7, where the
coordinate is found by the distance from the camera to the person's head, x distance
from the image center to the person's feet, the horizontal viewing angle through the lens
and the width of the image.

Summary of Remarks (@ response page labeled 4): "Crabtree fails to disclose
that the statistical information of the feature model is representative of the characteristic
quantities of respective objects included in said image information".

Examiner's Response: The statistical information (height, width, coordinates) is
the result of synthesis of the measurements regarding the object clusters from the
image information, such as the angle between the person's head and feet (column 17,
line 51), the distance from the person's head to the camera (col. 17, line 63) or the x
distance from the image center to the person's feet (col. 18, line 3).

Summary of Remarks (@ response page labeled 6): Crabtree does not disclose "comparing the confidence scores and the feature model information to establish correspondence information between object zones and objects".

Examiner's Response: The Examiner is gathering from Applicant's response that the intended language of the correspondence-establishing means in claim 1 is to read as establishing correspondences between an object zone and an object based on the similarity between the object zone's characteristic quantities and the object's synthesized characteristic quantities. However, the Examiner interpreted the claim as follows: establishing correspondences between object zones and correspondences between objects based on the similarity between object zone characteristic quantities and the similarity between synthesized object characteristic quantities. As such, correspondence between object zones are defined by the confidence scores that the object zone in the current frame defined by its object belongs to an object zone in the previous frame. The correspondence between objects is defined by the real-world features for each cluster to determine whether each cluster belongs to the same object in the current frame or whether an object in the current frame corresponds to an object in the previous frame.

Summary of Remarks (@ response pages labeled 6-7): The model matcher receives object model information from the OCGM, and as such, feature model information is not generated by the model matcher.

Examiner's Response: The Examiner was not relying on the "object model information" from the OCGM as support for the synthetic characteristic quantities. The "feature model information" is referring to the real-world features as calculated by the model matcher.

Summary of Remarks (@ response page labeled 7): "Individual region clusters contain only one object, such as region clusters 302 and 306".

Examiner's Response: The Examiner recognizes that region cluster 302 and 306 correspond to individual objects. However, a region cluster does not necessarily have only one object, as merged objects will form a single region cluster (col. 28, line 33).

Summary of Remarks (@ response page labeled 8): "Since an object zone is defined by an object within it, according to the Examiner, Applicant submits that objects 302 and 306 are within their own object zones, respectively. Therefore, according to the Examiner's interpretation of an object and object zone, a split transition leads to only one object zone and an object within it".

Examiner's Response: The Examiner did state that "an object zone is defined by the object within it". However, this does not preclude an object zone from containing more than one object in it. The object zone is essentially the region cluster as defined

by the object, or some cases, objects. As stated above, in the instances where two

objects merge to form a single cluster, the object zone contains two objects, rather than

just one. Therefore, a split transition will result in two object zones as the two objects

split from their merged state.

Conclusion

3.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to KATRINA FUJITA whose telephone number is

(571)270-1574. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 8-5:30pm, F 8-

4:30pm.

        If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Brian Werner can be reached on (571) 272-7401. The fax phone number

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

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Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Katrina Fujita/
Examiner, Art Unit 2624

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